

Project Name: Phase II South Cliffs Pinyon-Juniper Removal

Proposed Action. Encroaching pinyon and juniper trees would be mechanically removed by hydro-axe, chainsaw, loppers, or similar equipment in the 258-acre project area. The project area consists of the Luark North and North BLM Field units. A contractor-furnished hydro-axe or similar large equipment would be used to remove pinyon and juniper trees where feasible. Hand-cutting by contractor would be used to remove pinyon and juniper trees that are inaccessible to a hydro-axe or other large equipment due to large rocks, steep terrain, delicate soils, or other limitations. Felled trees would be lopped and branches scattered.

Hydro-axe and hand-cutting treatments would remove pinyon and juniper trees, leaving sagebrush, grasses and forbs relatively undisturbed, thus protecting soils from erosion and maintaining or improving the herbaceous understory. Some Gambel oak would be removed to improve forage palatability for big game. Older stands of Gambel oak that have attained a tree-like form would be retained unless they could provide potential raptor and corvid perches adjacent to greater sage-grouse habitat.

The removal of encroaching pinyon and juniper trees would maintain or improve the vigor and cover of sagebrush and herbaceous plants. Conditions would be improved for greater sage-grouse in preliminary priority habitat and preliminary general habitat as well as for mule deer and elk in mapped severe winter range. The project would build on work recently completed on the South Cliffs Pinyon Juniper Removal project, as well as extensive hydro-axe work on adjacent private lands, and hand-thinning south of the North BLM Field Unit, increasing the connectivity of these projects.

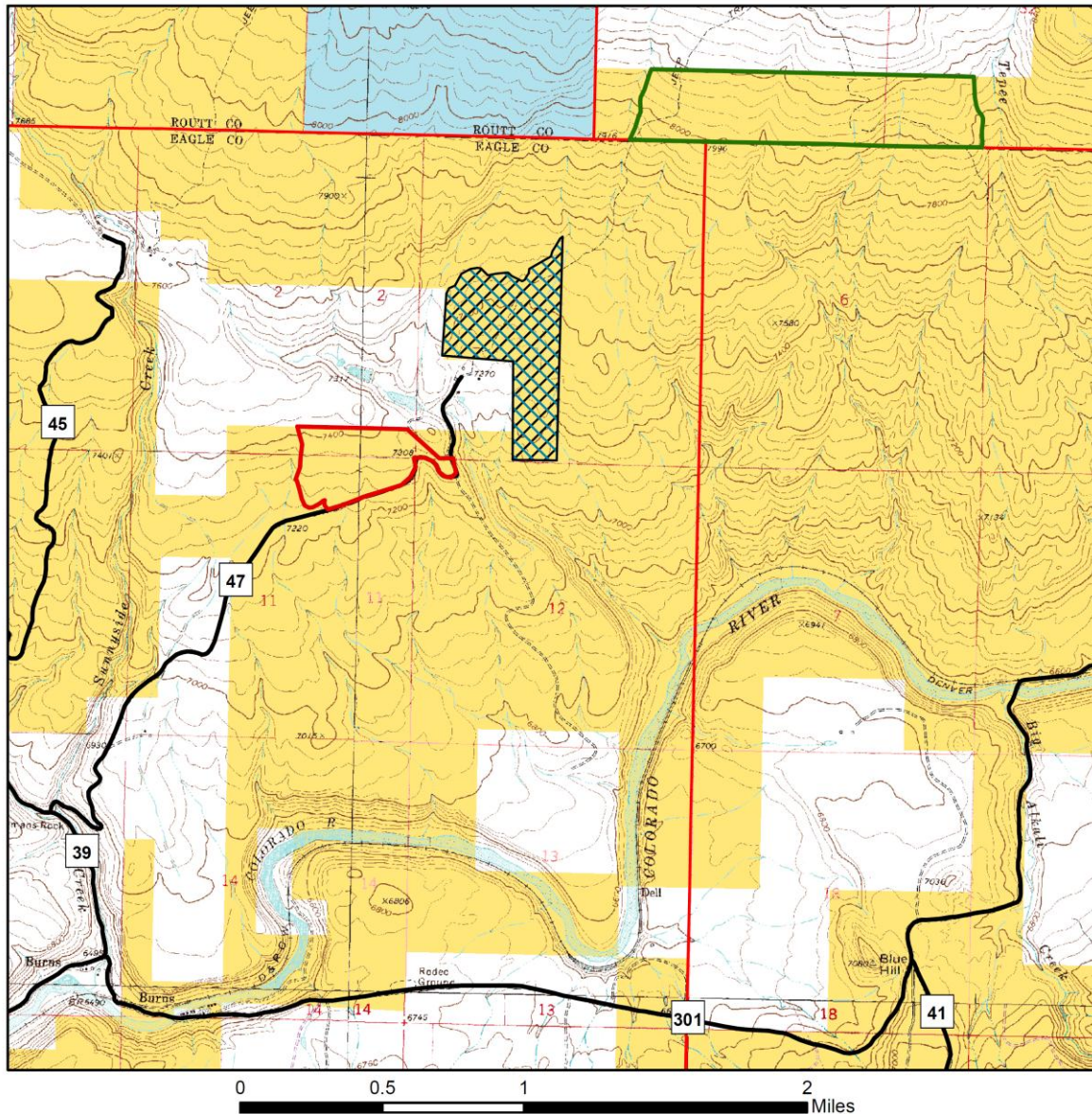
Project Design Features:

- The contractor will drive the hydro-axe or other heavy equipment off-route within areas identified for treatment, removing all parts of the tree to a stubble height of 6" or less except where adjacent rocks would damage equipment.
- Vegetation will be reduced to a mulch material with a minimum of 80% of the woody material less than 1" in diameter and 6" long. The mulch will be scattered evenly across the soil surface and not remain in piles greater than 8" deep.
- The contractor will be responsible for power-washing or comparable cleaning of all equipment and vehicles used on the project prior to entering the project area to ensure that noxious weed seeds are removed. BLM will require a pre-work inspection to ensure compliance.
- Any routes that may be created during the project will be covered with woody material to prevent continued use after project completion.
- Wheeled motorized equipment will not be operated when conditions are muddy or the soil moisture is high enough for the vehicles to leave ruts over 4.0 inches deep.
- Gambel oak that have attained a tree-like form will be retained unless they could provide potential raptor and corvid perches adjacent to greater sage-grouse habitat.
- The project inspector will be informed of any objects or sites of cultural, paleontological, or scientific value such as historic or prehistoric resources, graves or grave markers, human remains, ruins, cabins, rock art, fossils, or artifacts. The objects shall not be

damaged, destroyed, removed, moved, or disturbed. Any person who knowingly violates this may be subject to fines and/or imprisonment (Public Law 16-95; 16 U.S.C. 470).

No Action Alternative. Encroaching pinyon and juniper trees would not be removed from the project area. No change from current management would occur.

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Legend

-  South Cliffs- Completed 2015- 118 Acres
-  Luark North- 191 Acres
-  North BLM Field- 67 Acres
-  County Road
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  Private
-  State



Luark North: T1S, R84W, Sec. 31, 32
 North BLM Field: T2S, R85W, Sec. 1, 2, 11, 12

Note to map user:
 No warranty is made by the
 Bureau of Land Management as to the
 accuracy, reliability, or completeness of
 these data for individual use or
 aggregation use with other data.